

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02935 010952Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05
HA-05 /142 W

-----030811 011006Z /16

P R 010825Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4362
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2935

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROG, MARR, UN, WA, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN UN FORCE IN NAMIBIA

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 2820, B) STATE 191882, C) STOCKHOLM 2929

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL B, DCM AND
POLCOUNS CALLED ON MFA ACTING DIRECTOR POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
JAN AF SILLEN TO URGE SUBSTANTIAL SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 02935 010952Z

UN POLICE, CIVILIAN, AND MILITARY UNITS REQUIRED IN NAMIBIAN
TRANSITION. EMBOFFS NOTED POSITIVE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF FM
SODER ON JULY 28 (REFTEL C) AND EXPRESSED HOPE A WAY WOULD BE
FOUND TO OVERCOME REPORTED LEGAL AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS
REGARDING MILITARY PARTICIPATION PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

2. IN RESPONSE, AF SILLEN INDICATED SWEDEN DEFINITELY

WISHED TO MAKE REASONABLE CONTRIBUTION BUT STRESSED THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS ON EITHER TYPES OR NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL HAD BEEN MADE. HE SAID SWEDISH LAW PROHIBITS THE DESPATCH OF MORE THAN TWO COMBAT BATTALIONS FOR UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES. BOTH SUPREME COMMANDER GENERAL SYNEGGREN AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE KRONMARK ARE OPPOSED TO ASKING PARLIAMENT FOR NEW LEGISLATION TO GET AROUND PRESENT PROHIBITION. PRESENT LAW DOES PROVIDE EXCEPTION THAT ONE SERVICE BATTALION CAN BE ADDED TO TWO COMBAT BATTALIONS, ACCORDING TO AF SILLEN.

3. AF SILLEN SAID UN HAD BEEN LUKEWARM ON FIRST GOS PROPOSAL--TO BEEF UP REDUCED COMBAT BATTALION NOW ON CYPRUS FOR TRANSFER TO NAMIBIA. ALTERNATIVE NOW BEING WORKED UPON WOULD INVOLVE DESPATCH OF A SERVICE BATTALION CONSISTING OF SOME 300 MEN RATHER THAN 700 OF A COMBAT BATTALION. SERVICE BATTALION COULD BE DRAWN FROM SUCH CATEGORIES AS TRANSPORT, MILITARY POLICE, POSTAL AND FIELD HOSPITAL UNITS (BUT NOT COMMUNICATIONS). UN HAS NOT RESPONDED THUS FAR TO THIS OFFER. IN ADDITION, AF SILLEN THOUGHT UP TO 50 REGULAR SWEDISH POLICE MIGHT BE RECRUITED FOR NAMIBIAN SERVICE AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CIVILIAN WORKERS (PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED AND YOUNGER VOLUNTEERS).

4. AF SILLEN INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD UN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 02935 010952Z

COMMISSIONER AHTISSARI HAS DELAYED TRAVEL TO NAMIBIA BECAUSE OF REPORTED NEW SOUTH AFRICAN INTRANSIGENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT SUBSEQUENT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT NOW LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED FROM MID-AUGUST TO END OF AUGUST.

5. AF SILLEN CONCLUDED BY ASKING WHETHER EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF ANY POSITIVE LATIN AMERICAN RESPONSE TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY UNIT PARTICIPATION IN NAMIBIA. WE ASSURED AF SILLEN WE WOULD OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION. PLEASE ADVISE.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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